Benami L.P.G. agencies in the country

1545. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out the number of benami L.P.G. agencies in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) While regular inspections of the LPG distributorships are carried out by the Field Officers to ensure that the distributorship is run personally by the distributor himself/herself, no special survey has been carried out by any oil marketing company to find whether any distributorship is being run on 'benami' basis;

(b) The oil companies have reparted that 5 cases of LPG distributorships were detected which were being run on 'benami' basis in the country.

Three of the 5 distributorships have already been terminated. Show Cause Notices have been issued by the oil companies concerned in the two remaining cases.

New Measures to Boost OIL Exploration

1546. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have emphasised the need to intensify oil exploration and production in the country;

(b) whether the ONGC has taken any new measures to boost oil exploration in the country during the past few months; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Besides laying further stress on the 7th Plan strategy of intensifying exploratory efforts in the proven oil basins in Cambay, Upper Assam and Bombay offshore, and extending these to category-II basins like, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Assam Arakan basins, ONGC has introduced new technologies in the areas where old methods were not successfully probing the sub-surface geology. These new technologies are Shear-wave seismics, Magneto-Telluric (MT), Transient Electro-Magnetic (TEM) surveys in Saurashtra and Deccan Syneclise. In addition, ONGC has been, of late, using Gamma-ray spectrometry, Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP) and 3D seismic surveys. These bring, both precision and enhanced capablity in mapping difficult areas.

On the production front, ONGC has introduced early production systems both onland and offshore, in order to accelerate the process of putting the structures on production. Horizontal drilling and sub-sea completion techniques have been adopted to put the structures on production in logistically difficult and geologically complex conditions.

Concessions to Cement Industry

1547. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2897 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and state:

(a) since when and how much amount of excise duty concession has been allowed on cement production per tonne during the last three years;